

**TOTO0004-US**

**PATENT**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

MASAAKI MIMURA et al.

Serial No. New Application

ATTN. APPLICATION BRANCH

Filed: November 14, 2001

For: MARK FORMING METHOD AND  
PRODUCT USING THE SAME  
METHOD

Box: Non-Fee Amendment  
Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

## **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 4 and 14 as shown on the attached sheets.

Inventor: Masaaki MIMURA et al.  
Attorney Docket No. TOTO0004-US

## **REPLACEMENT CLAIMS**

4. (Amended) A method for forming a mark according to claim 2, wherein black nickel or an alloy of tin and nickel is used for the nickel plating layer, black chromium, an alloy of tin and cobalt, or gold is used for the chromium plating layer, and the color difference between said upper plating layer and said mark is freely varied depending on the combination.

14. (Amended) A faucet product in which a mark having a desired letter or picture is formed by a method according to claim 1.

**REMARKS**

The foregoing amendment is being made to remove the multiple dependencies from claims 4 and 14 as filed. No new matter has been added. A favorable action on the merits of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MASAAKI MIMURA et al.

By:

  
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DATE: **November 14, 2001**

Attachments: Amended claims with markings

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS**

4. A method for forming a mark according to claim 2 [or 3], wherein black nickel or an alloy of tin and nickel is used for the nickel plating layer, black chromium, an alloy of tin and cobalt, or gold is used for the chromium plating layer, and the color difference between said upper plating layer and said mark is freely varied depending on the combination.

14. A faucet product in which a mark having a desired letter or picture is formed by a method according to [any one of claim 1 to 13] claim 1.

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